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seemed peculiarly in his proper setting by his beloved books. He took a great interest in both the Bodleian Library at Oxford and in the Oxford Press, and to both he gave much thought and time, serving each in official capacity.

When Osler left Baltimore for Oxford he was almost universally conceded to be the leading man in American medicine. At Oxford he merely widened his sphere so as to become the leader for British as well as American medicine. He died Dec. 29, 1919 of complications following pneumonia. The death of his only son in the World's War and the strain incident to his own activities in connection with the problems of the sick and wounded were important contributing factors. In his lifetime he moulded in many very important ways medical thought and medical teaching. He was greatly beloved by students, fellow practitioners and patients by reason of his human friendliness and his kindliness. To his students and medical colleagues he was ever an inspiring leader stimulating to diligence in medical work and exemplifying in himself what the ideal physician and medical teacher and writer should be.

HENRY A. CHRISTIAN.

WILHELM PFEFFER (1845–1920).

Foreign Honorary Member in Class II, Section 2, 1897.

The death of Professor Wilhelm Pfeffer, on the 30th of January, 1920, removed one of the outstanding figures of the scientific world. With the exception of Strasburger, he probably influenced the work of the last generation of American botanists more deeply than any other man.

The last two decades of the nineteenth century was a period of remarkable development of botany in America. A number of factors contributed to this, but undoubtedly the most important was the influence of the work of the great German botanists of the previous twenty years. Through the translation of Sachs's famous text-book and several other important German works American botanists were introduced to the results of the investigations of the morphologists and physiologists, who made Germany at that period the leader in botanical science. Up to this time, one may almost say that physiology and comparative anatomy in botany, did not exist in America. As a result of this newly aroused interest, many of the younger botanists looked forward to studying in Germany.

It is true that a small number had found their way abroad in the seventies, but it was not until a decade later that the real exodus to the German laboratories began. For ten years or more there were always to be found American students in the principal botanical laboratories of Germany, especially in Strasburger's laboratory in Bonn and in Pfeffer's at Leipzig. These young Americans applied themselves to the acquirement of the latest methods of research, particularly in the field of histology and cytology with Strasburger, and physiology under Pfeffer's direction. It is hardly necessary to point out the results of this training on the subsequent development of botanical teaching and research in America.

Pfeffer was almost the last of that remarkable band of distinguished investigators who for nearly half a century made Germany the center of botanical progress in Europe.

The writer spent the summer semester of 1887 in Pfeffer's laboratory in Tübingen, just before he removed to Leipzig where the rest of his life was spent.

The old Suabian town of Tübingen is most picturesquely placed in the beautiful Neckar Valley, south of Stuttgart, and near the northern border of the Black Forest. This region is one of the most attractive in Germany, and the quaint old town, and the amiable South German people, who still clung to their picturesque customs and peasant costumes, made it a most satisfactory abiding place — aside from the scientific advantages of the University.

The laboratory was at this time one of the best equipped in Germany. It boasted a line of distinguished botanists as directors, two of whom, Von Mohl and Hofmeister, were worthy predecessors of Pfeffer. Under Pfeffer's able direction the facilities for work in physiology were probably at that time unequalled.

Sachs, at this period had practically ceased active work and Pfeffer was generally recognized as his legitimate successor.

Pfeffer was an indefatigable worker but found time to supervise carefully the work of his students and to give them the benefit of his valuable criticism and assistance. At this time he was but forty-two years old but looked older, his tall, thin and somewhat bent figure and strongly marked features making him seem older than his years.

Pfeffer was born, the son of an apothecary, in the village of Grebenstein near Cassel, March 9, 1845. He studied at Göttingen where he took his doctorate in 1865, in Marburg, where he afterward taught as docent, in Berlin and Würzburg, in the latter University working under Sachs.

In 1873 he was appointed professor extraordinarius in Bonn, and four years later went as full professor to Basel, where he remained only a year, after which he went to Tübingen. He held the position in Tübingen until his final removal in 1887 to Leipzig where he remained until his death in 1920.

In Leipzig he developed the great laboratory which for more than thirty years was the Mecca for students of plant physiology from all parts of the world. Throughout his long career in Leipzig he was generally recognized as the first physiologist of his generation.

While Pfeffer's name is primarily associated with strictly physiological problems, as a young man he published several morphological papers of considerable importance. Especially valuable was a paper on the development of the gametophyte and embryo of Selaginella, a paper that for a long time was the most important contribution to the subject.

It is, however, upon the very numerous and important contributions to plant physiology that his fame rests. These cover an extensive range of subjects, some of fundamental importance, not only biologically, but to physics and chemistry as well. His remarkable investigations in osmotic pressure have strongly influenced the work of subsequent workers in pure physics and chemistry, and their great importance has been fully recognized by these investigators. Pfeffer's extensive studies on plasma membranes and the phenomena of irritability include many papers of the first importance. During his stay in Tübingen he inaugurated a series of publications "Untersuchungen aus dem botanischen Institut zu Tübingen" modelled on the similar publication issued from the botanical Institute in Würzburg under the direction of Sachs. This publication ceased on Pfeffer's departure from Tübingen.

Pfeffer's best known work is his great text-book, Handbuch der Pflanzenphysiologie. This was translated into English and was for many years the standard work on the subject.

Pfeffer's name is also associated with the well-known periodical, Pringsheims Jahrbücher für wissenschaftlicher Botanik. After the death of Pringsheim, this was issued for several years under the joint editorship of Pfeffer and his distinguished colleague, Strasburger.

Shortly before the outbreak of the war Pfeffer's old students were invited to contribute to a "Festschrift" to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his doctorate and his seventieth birthday. The volume appeared in 1915, but the circumstances of the war resulted in the absence of many names which under normal conditions would certainly have appeared in it.

Pfeffer survived the horrors of the Great War, in which he lost his only son, and saw the collapse of the great German empire, in whose upbuilding he and his scientific colleagues played such an important rôle. He had the satisfaction, however, of knowing that their work would survive the downfall of the imperial government and that his name will always rank high in the annals of science.

Douglas Houghton Campbell.

EDWARD CHARLES PICKERING (1846–1919).

Fellow in Class I, Section 1, 1867.

In the death of Edward Charles Pickering after a service of forty-two years as Director of the Harvard College Observatory, the American Academy loses an interested and important Fellow and the Science of Astronomy one who was at his death the dean of astronomical research in America.

He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, July 19, 1846, of a distinguished and highly cultivated New England family. In 1865, he graduated from the Lawrence Scientific School with the degree of S.B. He was immediately thereupon appointed instructor in mathematics in that institution, but the following year he became assistant instructor in Physics in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and two years after was made Thayer Professor of Physics.

From the very outset of his teaching his peculiar bent of mind was revealed and the work of research and organization which constituted his great contribution to modern science was begun.

He planned and put into practical shape for use in systematic class instruction the experimental laboratory method in the teaching of